

Applicant : Svetomir N. Markovic  
Serial No. : 09/187,385  
Filed : November 6, 1998  
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07039-119001

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 27, said method further comprising administering said immunostimulatory dosage~~ A method for stimulating the immune system of a human patient having a resectable malignant tumor, said method comprising:  
    a) determining the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient to provide a baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity;  
    b) administering an immunostimulatory dosage of an  $\alpha$ -interferon composition to said patient, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage increases natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity; and  
    c) surgically resecting said malignant tumor,  
    wherein said immunostimulatory dosage is administered to said patient for about five days prior to resecting said malignant tumor.

31-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 27,~~ A method for stimulating the immune system of a human patient having a resectable malignant tumor, said method comprising:  
    a) determining the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient to provide a baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity;  
    b) administering an immunostimulatory dosage of an  $\alpha$ -interferon composition to said patient, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage increases natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity; and  
    c) surgically resecting said malignant tumor,  
    wherein said malignant tumor is an early-stage solid tumor.

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37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, A method for stimulating the immune system of a human patient having a resectable malignant tumor, said method comprising:
- a) determining the natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity of said patient to provide a baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity;
  - b) administering an immunostimulatory dosage of an  $\alpha$ -interferon composition to said patient, wherein said immunostimulatory dosage increases natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity at least about 75% above said baseline natural killer lymphocyte cytotoxicity; and
  - c) surgically resecting said malignant tumor.
- wherein said malignant tumor is a melanoma.
- 38-56. (Canceled)